March 10, 2014

Representative John Shimkus, Chair & Representative Paul Tonko, Ranking Member:

The Chemicals in Commerce Act introduced in the Environment and Economy Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee will negatively impact commerce and the economy of the State of Oregon and other states.

We oppose any bill that will annul existing state laws and remove states' rights to pass laws that will grow their economies and protect citizens. The Chemicals in Commerce Act will undermine the freedom and liberty guaranteed to Oregon and every other state in our union.

Oregon is on the leading edge of developing innovative new chemicals, materials, and products to meet growing global demand. As currently drafted, the Chemicals in Commerce Act will erode Oregon's ability to foster innovation and entrepreneurship and stimulate our economy. It will eliminate a critical state strategy to create opportunities for new businesses and to grow existing ones, ultimately costing Oregonians jobs.

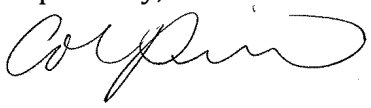
We believe reforming the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) is long overdue. The United States needs an effective federal law for ensuring that chemicals in interstate and foreign commerce are safe and function to the high standards of the domestic and global market place. Chemicals that fail to mitigate hazards to human health and the environment create unnecessary economic risk to businesses and our economy.

We believe the following changes to the Chemicals in Commerce Act are necessary to effectively reform TSCA and create uniform protections for human health and the environment while stimulating the economy:

1. Protect liberty and respect the intent of citizens by preserving existing state laws
2. Maintain the rights of states to pass new laws that protect their citizens and create jobs
3. Remove provisions that create additional regulatory burden by preempting state laws based on EPA's cost-based safety determination
4. Provide a reasonable and timely process for states to exercise their rights by appealing preemptive effects and granting waivers to states that request them

Ultimately, the Chemicals in Commerce Act as currently drafted will create undue burdens on commerce in Oregon and other states. We strongly oppose this bill. We encourage the Energy and Commerce Committee to start over and craft a credible approach to reforming TSCA.

Respectfully,



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